AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended)   A method of converting data stored in a file from a first format used by a first software application, to a new file in a second format used by a second software application, said file having one or more records, each of said records having one or more fields having one or more data elements, each of said records being associated with a first data map corresponding to said first format and a second data map corresponding to said second format, the method comprising:

(a) accessing a selected record from said file, said selected record being one of said one or more records of said file;

(b) initializing a new record;

(c) for each field of said selected record, using said first data map associated with said selected record and said second data map associated with said selected record to determine whether said field is present in said second format, and if said field is not present in said second format, discarding said one or more data elements of said field from said selected record, and if said field is present in said second format, copying said one or more data elements of said field to said new record at a field location for said field set forth in said second data map associated with said selected record; ~~and~~

(d) repeating steps (a), (b), and (c) for each of a remaining one or more of said records of said file; and

(e) saving said new records as said new file in said second format for use by said second software application.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, said data further comprising data stored in one or more additional files, each of said additional files having one or more records each having one or more fields having one or more data elements, each of said records in each said additional file being associated with a first data map corresponding to said first format and a second data map

corresponding to said second format, said method further comprising repeating steps (a), (b), (c), and (d) for each of said additional files.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein step (c) further comprises issuing a potential data loss warning if a first size of said one or more data elements of said field as set forth in said first data map associated with said selected record is larger than a second size of said one or more data elements of said field as set forth in said second data map associated with said selected record.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein said first data map associated with the selected record and said second data map associated with the selected record include information relating to a field type length and a field length for each field in said selected record, said first and second size for each said field being based on said field type length and field length information for each said field.

5. (Currently Amended)   A method according to claim 1, wherein step (b) further comprises initializing said new record in a temporary file, said method further comprising saving said temporary file as asaid new file.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein step (b) further comprises initializing said new record in a temporary file, said method further comprising overwriting said file with said temporary file.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein in step (b) said new record has one or more fields, said fields of said new record being initialized with one or more default values.

8. Cancelled.